



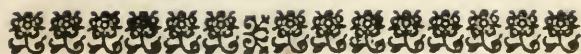
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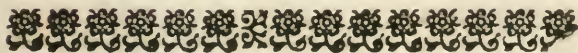
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POPERY a CRAFT
AND
POPIISH PRIESTS
The CHIEF
CRAFTS-MEN,
A
SERMON
Deliver'd

On the *Fifth* of November.

O BAAL ! (O good BAAL !) *hear us : But there was no
Voice nor Answer.*

*Then ELIJAH mocked (BAAL's Priests) and said, " Cry
aloud (with a great Voice) for he is a God (certainly
but) either he is talking, (or meditating) or pursuing,
or in a Journey, or peradventure, he sleepeth, and must
be awaked. 1 Kings xviii. 26, 27.*

*— Ridiculum acri
Fortius & melius magnas plerumque secat res.*

Hor. L. I. Sat. 10.

L O N D O N :

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Acts xix. 25.

*—Sirs ! ye know that by this
Craft we have our wealth.*



WE need only transfer the Scene of Action from *Ephesus* to *Rome*, or to any other City or Country, where Ambitious and Worldly Priests trample upon all the Rights of Truth, Reason and Conscience, in order to prove these *Two* Points,

I. That *Papery* is a *Craft*, a Human Craft.

II. That it is a *Craft*, a Trade invented and managed with a sole View to get *Wealth*, *Power* and *Greatness* ;

ness; or, to exalt Priests into Lords over Mankind.

AND it is the *Gainfulness* of this Craft, which inspires the Popish Priests with so furious a Zeal to maintain its Credit, and support its Practice.

IT is equally true that all worldly Establishments, and Anti-christian Devices brought into Religion are *Crafts*, political Engines, for loading a set of Proud, Tyrannical, Worldly *Clergy-men* with the Wealth of the *Laity*.

CONSEQUENTLY, a *Deliverance* from such a set of Men, is a very great and merciful Deliverance, and ought to be had in everlasting Remembrance.

THE whole may be reduced to this *one Point*, Namely.

THAT *Popery* is a Human Invention to befool, enslave, and impoverish the *Laity*; and to magnify and enrich the *Clergy*.

No wonder then, if the spiritual Tradesmen

men are very loth to give up their Gainful Craft.

I SHALL Name a few of the *Doctrines* and *Practises* of the Church of Rome, a short View of which will shew the Truth of our Positions, and justify the Application of the Text to our present Purpose.

For Instance,

1. WHAT can be said for the universal Headship and Infallibility of the Pope? Why *Sirs*, ye know that by this Craft we get our Wealth. By virtue of this Doctrine we claim a Power over Kings, a Right to dispose of Crowns and Kingdoms, and to Tax all Countries, as once we did *England*, till God opened their Eyes, and then our gainful Trade was at an End*.

By Virtue of this Doctrine we hook in abundance of Money for Vacancies of Archbishopricks, Bishopricks, Abbacies,

* See in *Fox's Acts and Monuments*, Vol. 1. p. 369. A Table of the Pope's unreasonable Gatherings, Exactions and Oppressions in the Realm of *England*.

and

and all spiritual Places : For retaining of Livings without Residence ; for change of Incumbents ; for Preventions of Benefices before they fall ; for Resignations, Comendams, Compositions, Dispensations, Bulls, giving the Pall, &c. &c.

By Virtue of this Doctrine we bring all spiritual Causes into our own Courts, where they are managed at vast Expence to the *Laity*, and bring great Gain to the *Clergy*.

By Virtue of this Doctrine, we persuade People to believe and obey whatever the ~~pope~~ decreeth ; and we are sure that in all his Decrees he will take Care of the *Clergy*. But,

2. How come you, Gentlemen Priests, to claim Freedom from secular Jurisdiction, and to pretend that *Lay-Judges* have no Authority over *Churchmen*? Why, by this Craft we have our Wealth ; Hereby we *Clergymen* are fix'd in our Dependance on the ~~pope~~, who connives at all our Rogueries. In all Criminal Causes,

Causés, we are to be try'd by our spiritual Brethren, and Courts made up of our own Tribe will never hurt us: Be we ever such Knaves, we hardly ever come to the Gallows, while Priests are our Judges.

By this Doctrine, we not only save our Necks, but we preserve the Mastership of our own Wealth; and hereby our spiritual Powers shine above those of Temporal Princes.

3. WHY do you Priests insist upon Auricular Confession, and oblige all the Laity to tell all the secrets of their Life in private to you? *Ans.* By this Craft we get our Wealth.

ALL our People fear disobliging us, knowing what Tales we are able to tell against them.

By this Art we fetch out all the secrets of Kings and Kingdoms, and keep the World in Awe.

WE get many a Bribe for secresy, and have it any Time in our Power to revenge our own Quarrel.

BESIDES the *Pennances* we enjoin are a very gainful Part of our Trade, as we are able to sell *Commutations* of Pen-nance at our own Price.

THIS leads us to Enquire,

4. WHAT can be said for Dispensations and Indulgences to Sin for Time to come, and Pardons for Sins in Time past, which the ~~Pope~~ and the ~~Priests~~ pretend to bestow? Why *Sirs*, ye know that by this Craft we have our Wealth. We get *a world of Money* by this Article of our Trade.

THESE Indulgences cost us very little, yet the deluded People buy them at great Rates. They will give round Sums for a Liberty to Sin, or to quit Scores with God and the Priest after sin-ing.

WE know indeed, when a Man is condemn'd by GOD, it will be a poor Comfort

fort to him, that he hath the *Pope's Pardon* in his Pocket; but the Priestly Power of Absolution is so well established in our Church, that we think our Trade pretty Safe; we have so effectually hoodwink'd the *Laity* that we hope they will not easily be undeceived.

BUT pray, Gentlemen, how can you defend

5. THE DOCTRINE of Purgatory, a Place of future Torments, out of which Souls may be delivered by the Masses of Priests? Why *Sirs!* All the World, except our own Slaves, know, that by this Craft we have our Wealth.

WHO wou'd not give a good deal of Money, rather than lie many Years in Torment; especially at a Time when he can keep his Money no longer, and giveth what is scarcely his own?

CAN a Sinner make a *better hand* of his Wealth, than by giving it the Priests to be soon pray'd into Heaven?

THIS is the most wonderful Trick in all our Craft, for purging the Pockets of the Laity.

BESIDES, it procureth to us a *vast Reverence*, when People believe our Powers reach into the other World, and can affect them beyond Death. What will not People do to please Men who have the Keys of Heaven and Hell!

MOREOVER, this Art we are able to manage in the greatest Perfection; as we are bred up in all the methods of Craft and Subtlety, we know how to treat every Constitution, to humour every Inclination, to apply to every Passion, and to suit our selves to every Season. It is our constant Maxim to attend the Beds of Dying Sinners, and the more flaming their Vices have been, the better Hope we have of Success: We take Advantage from their Distempers, and their natural Fears, to overwhelm the poor Wretches with terrible Ideas of purgatory, of which we believe

lieve not a Word our selves, we confound their Imaginations by our awful Descriptions, and cherish every superstitious Fear we have rais'd : At length our Patients lose all Liberty, Strength, and Capacity of Reasoning ; they take any Impression we desire ; then, with wonderful Address and Cunning, and with all the Airs of Gravity and Concern, we sell our ghostly Advice and Consolation to the Dying at what price we please, and if we give them any Hope, and pronounce Absolution, they are sure to pay dear for it. Thus by this Craft we get our Wealth.

BUT can any thing be offered to defend

6. Creature-worship, Reverence to the Virgin, Devotion to dead Saints and dead Sinners, a veneration for Images and Relicks ?

Yes, by this Craft we get our Wealth. Such Offerings are brought to our Churches, and the Shrines of our canonized Saints, that they exceed the Palaces of Princes
in

in costly Ornaments; The Officers of our Churches are maintained like Noblemen; and in many Countries we have engrossed almost a third Part of the Lands and Riches of the Kingdom: -----Our Wooden Gods have procur'd us a deal of good Money.

O U R Churches and Abbies are a resource of boundless Wealth on any extraordinary Occasion. We are able to maintain Spies in all Courts, and to send Emissaries into all Countries, and pay Armies to support the Hierarchy.

O L D Girdles, bits of rotten Wood, the Legs of an Ass, and other such precious Ware, we can sell at vast Rates; our Market for these holy Trifles run indeed higher or lower, as the number of Fools is, who come to buy, but they generally go off for ready Money. But

7. CAN the monstrous Doctrine of *Transubstantiation* be defended? Yes, by this Craft we also get Wealth.

T H I S wonderful Trick we have got
of

of turning Bread into a real human Body, creates in People a prodigious Reverence for a Man, who by pronouncing a few Words can produce so extraordinary an Effect.

WHEN once we have brought People to believe this, they will then swallow every other Doctrine the Priests shall teach.

THIS exceedingly *magnifies* the Clergy, who having got Dominion over the *Understandings* and *Consciences* of the Laity, easily assume an Empire over their *Purses*.

WE own it requires an uncommon stock of *Impudence* thus to out-face Peoples Reason and Senses, their Eye-sight, Feeling, Taste, Smell, Hearing; but we have carried our Point for some Ages, and are resolv'd to stand by it as long as we can.

Note. From the *Hoc est Corpus* of the Popish Church-Juglers, is derived the *Hocus Pocus* of our Market-Juglers, who impose upon the Vulgar with more Art, but with less Impudence than the *Romish* Priests.

8. AND why are the Laity deprived of their *Bibles*, unless a special License be obtained? And have you Priests the sole Authority to interpret Scripture? And why must Men, in worshipping God, do and say they know not what, by saying their Prayers in Latin? Why Sirs! ye know that by this Craft we have our Wealth.

THIS is our *Fundamental Art*; we are undone, and our Trade at an End, if the Laity read and understand the Bible, and begin to open their Eyes.

THE BIBLE is the most dangerous Book that ever was printed; if it go abroad, all our Craft is in danger; and we are in terrible Fear that the *Art of Printing* will one Day be our Ruin.

As to our Claim to *interpret* the Scriptures for our People, this keeps us Masters of the Faith and Understandings of the Laity. And *Unintelligible Prayers* help to keep Men blind; and support an Opinion, “ That it is enough if their
“ Priests

“ Priests pray and understand for them.”

If it be asked,

9. WHY is *Celibacy* and a *Monastick-Life* so strictly required and so much exalted? The Answer is still the same. This keeps all our Wealth amongst the *Clergy*; whereas, by the Priests Marriage it wou'd be scattered amongst the unhallowed *Laity*.

TO make us amends, we are indulged all Liberties with the fair Sex, and yet freed from the Expence of Mistresses and Off-spring. Again,

10. WHY are the *Laity* denied *one half* of the Sacrament?

Ans. TO keep all the rich Wines for the Priests, and to make a sufficient Distinction between the Order of *Holy-Men*, and the *Common Herd*.

YET we have a trick in Protestant Countries, to cheat People by a *Cup of Ablution*, instead of the *Cup of Consecration*.

11. WHY are Works of *Supererogation* defended?

C

Ans.

Ans. T O fill the *Pope's* Coffers by the sale of them.

12. W H Y are so many *Holy-Days* instituted and imposed by your Church?

T O keep the Laity poor, and to indulge them in sensual Pleasures, that they may not feel the Yoke of the Priests, nor, trouble their Heads with Reading and Religious Disputes, which always turn to our Disadvantage.

13. W H Y are such a Croud of Ceremonies introduced into your Worship?

Ans. W H E N we have robbed and cheated our People of their Understandings, Consciences, Religion, Liberties, Wealth; we must *substitute something* in their Room, and we endeavour to amuse and divert them by a Train of Fopperies, and Christen them by the Name of *Devotion*.

W E paint and adorn our Churches, erect and enrich Altars, and make all our worship Magnificent and Gaudy, on purpose to be a bait to catch the Eyes and
dazzle

dazzle the Imaginations of the deluded People, who are pleas'd with this Pomp; and diverted from any Enquiries about the Truth of our Worship, or the Foundation of our Claims.

WE dress up our Clergy in a very solemn manner, and in peculiar Habits on purpose to cover their Ignorance or want of Virtue, by an exterior Garb; that our *Persons* may be revered, where no deference is due to our Parts, Learning, or Integrity. Lastly,

14. WHAT can be said to justify all the hellish *Plots*, Treacheries, Treasons, and Cruelties, of the Church of Rome?

Ans. ALL this is for the good of the Church. We only practise these, where our *Arts* fail, and Men begin to despise us and our Trade.

IF *Heaven* do not favour us, we press *Hell* into our Service, and are able to consecrate the greatest Villanies and the most barbarous Cruelties *. Then the Estates

* *Flectere si nequeo superos, Acheronta movebo.* Vir. *Æn.* 7

and Riches of murdered Hereticks, fall to the share of the Priests; And by this Craft we have our Wealth.

FROM the whole, doth it not appear, “ That *popeꝝ* is merely a *Human Invention*, a worldly Engine to greaten and enrich an Army of Tyrannical, Haughty, Luxurious, Idle, Knavish, Ill-manner’d *Clergymen*?

THAT it is a *Craft*, to get the Wealth of the World into the Hands of the Priests.

THAT it is a Kingdom *wholly of this World*, supported by worldly Laws, worldly Maxims and Policies, worldly Rewards and Terrors.

THAT all the strength of *popeꝝ* lies in these *two* Points,

The BLINDNESS OF THE LAITY,

The GAINS OF THE CLERGY.

BY all their peculiar Doctrines are the Priests Gainers; They gain Dominion over *Conscience*, Reverence to their *Persons*, or Wealth into their *Purses*; by making

king the Laity Fools, Slaves, and Beggars.

FROM the whole Account, it appears farther, “ That *Popeery* is a Religion worse than *Deism*, as it is contradictory to all the Principles of Reason, and utterly inconsistent with our Ideas of the Perfections of God. Yea,

“ THAT it is worse than *Atheism* itself, which can only deprive us of all *religious Motives* to be *Virtuous*; whereas *Popeery* inspires us with the *strongest Motives* to be *Vitious*; It fills us with *hatred to all Mankind*, but those of our own Persuasion; it tears up every *moral Principle*, and under a solemn pretence of *supernatural Charity*, destroys *all Humanity*.”

BUT as surely as there is a God and a Providence; as surely as the Gospel is true, so surely these *Crafts-men* will not be al-

See a farther Description of Popish-Crafts-men in the *Plough-man's Prayer*: And in a Letter from the DEVIL to the Popish Priests, to thank 'em for the Eminent Services they had done him. In *Fox. Vol. 1. p. 521, 655.*

ways

ways Gainers by their Craft; their Trade will fail them.

IT is a dark Providence, that the *Priests Reign* hath endured so long; It is a Scene which shews the need, and proveth the certainty of a *future Judgment*.

FROM the whole it appears, how great is our *Deliverance* from these spiritual Tyrants. What a blessing was the discovery of the ~~Powder-Plot~~. What a blessing King *William* was. What a blessing King *George*, and the present *Royal Family*.

BUT I expect you are ready to ask the Reason I so soon quit the Scene at *Ephesus*, and the Story of the *Pagan High-Ch-ch Mob* there, which is so much to my Purpose?

Ans. THIS Story is so well represented, embellish'd and applied in print, that there is scarce room for Improvement: However, as few of you have perhaps seen that Discourse, I shall in the lively Turns of that
 Author,

Author, and in an easy and natural Method, give you such a View of this curious piece of History, as will convince you, that all High-Ch---h Priests, whether at ~~Rome~~, or elsewhere, are spiritual Crafts-men, Traders for the wealth and honours of this World.

To enter then upon our curious Subject; At *ver. 21.* you see what vast and noble Designs possessed the generous Breast of *St. Paul*; he aims at spreading Light over all *Europe*, and delivering Souls from Captivity to the Devil and cheating Priests in all Countries.

FROM *Ephesus* he is hastened away by a GREAT STIR raised against the new Gospel-way of Worshipping God. *v. 23.*

IF God enjoin and direct Men to ever so clear and good a way to Heaven, yet many will reject it, only because it is a *new way*. But surely, it is better to go in a new way *to Heaven*, than to keep in the old way *to Hell*. Antiquity, Customs of Fore-fathers, and Universality have been

been antient Pleas to keep People in Dark-
ness and Error.

LET us further open the Contents of
this Story in *some Enquiries*. As

First, W H O rais'd this *Commotion* ?

Ans. IT was the CRAFTS-MEN, with
one *Demetrius* at the Head of them. Men
who manufactured and traded in religi-
ous Fopperies; sacred TOY-MEN; who
dealt in Images, Beads, Wafers, *Agnus*
Dei's, Holy-water and Holy Garments,
&c.

T H E S E in *Romish* Churches answer
the *Shrines* for DIANA in the *Pagan*
Church at *Ephesus*, *ver.* 24.

DIANA was a she-Deity, originally the
Moon, call'd by the Pagan Priests, the
Queen of Heaven. These *Shrines* were
little Capsula's, or Cases, in the form of
a Temple with the Image of this God-
dess in them.

W H E N ever GOD raiseth up a num-
ber of excellent Preachers and holy Livers,
super-

superstitious and sensual *Priests* will raise up a GREAT STIR against them.

CRAFTS-MEN, who get Money by the Folly and Ignorance of the People, will oppose GOD and CHRIST, and raise War against Heaven, rather than part with their Gain.

THE Godly trade of Image-making must be supported, whatever become of Religion and the Souls of Men.

Let us enquire

Secondly, What method doth this Craftsman, this High-Ch---h Zealot take to oppose the *new way* which *Christ* and *St. Paul* were setting up?

HE Assembles all the Master-workmen, and Tribe of Journeymen, *ver.* 24, 25. He gathers a Mob, suppose of Hireling-Priests, Curates, Friars, Monks, and makes to them an *elegant Harangue*.

D

Thus

Thus he begins his Sermon.

Sirs! Ye know that by this Craft we have our Wealth. Very true; were it not for the Craft of cheating the People, and fobbing of poor Souls with Shows and Gestures, Bowings, Crossings and holy Sprinklings.----The Trade of worldly and knavish Priests wou'd be at an End. Religion and real Holiness are Matters they deal very little in.

IF People once throw away Images, Relicks, Pope's Pardons, Holy Water, Masses and Crosses, the Priests are ruin'd.

TOUCH but the wealth of these holy Men, reform their spiritual Courts, and suffer them to get no more Money by the Sins of the People, and they will raise terrible Out-cries, as if all Religion was at Stake.

NOTHING

NOTHING so gauls worldly Churchmen, or so kindles their Zeal, as fears of losing their Wealth. They will storm like Thunder, ride and write like Furies to prevent Reformation.

LUTHER and CALVIN threw them into such a fright, they have scarce recovered themselves to this Day.

This leads us to enquire,

Thirdly. Who was the Man that durst touch this Craft of theirs, and endeavour to bring the People to their Senses?

Ans. IT was one PAUL, a *Protestant Minister*, who protested against all Church Corruptions: A *Dissenting Minister*, who dissented from the Religion established at *Ephesus*; and who had disturb'd almost one half of the World by his Preaching. *ver. 26.*

ONE MAN, with Truth and Christ on his Side, is able to defeat a whole Army,

a whole Hierarchy of Crafts-men, if he be allow'd a fair Hearing.

ONE *Paul*, one *Luther*, one *Calvin* is an over-match for all the Hireling Priests in the World.

One poor Monk, in whom the light of Gospel-Truth began to shine, shakes the whole Papal Kingdom, and confounds *Pope*, *Cardinals*, *Bishops* and *Priests*, without any other Aid, but the Truth and Goodness of his Cause.

But let us enquire

Fourthly, WHAT was the great Heresy this *Paul* preach'd?

WHY, that they be no Gods which are made with Hands. ver. 26.

WICKED Doctrine indeed! the very Heresy of the Protestants; that *Popish Idols* are no Gods; That *Crossings*, *Bow-ing* to the Altar and to the East, *Holy Garments* and *Holy Days*, are a parcel of Human Inventions.

WHAT

W H A T barbarous Murders did the Papists commit a few Years ago at *Thorn in Poland*, because the Protestants burnt two or three of their *Wooden-Gods*!

W A S *St. Paul* to rise from the Dead, and preach and live as he did, the Papists wou'd burn him alive as a Heretick, a Man not fit to live. Now

Fifthly, W H A T is like to be the *Consequence* of such heretical Preaching as *Paul's* was?

W H Y, *this our Craft is in Danger to be set at nought.* ver. 27. Very true; when Peoples Eyes are open'd, they will give no more Money for Pardons, Masses, Commutations of Pennance, priestly Absolutions. &c. And then Priest-craft signifies nothing.

T H E R E are a set of Men, who turn their Churches into *Toy-shops, Show-Rooms, and Musick-Meetings*; and when they

they are laugh'd at, Cry, " They are in Danger."

IT is no wonder indeed that Churches made up of Human Inventions, govern'd by secular Canons, supported by worldly Interest and temporal Power, should be *in Danger*; but the true Church of Christ, being founded on the Rock of eternal Truth, can never be in Danger. All the Powers of Rome and Hell cannot prevail against her.

WHEN ever God's Truth breaks forth, and honest Men have Liberty to preach it; the Devil's and the Pope's Kingdom will be in terrible Danger; then every thing else in Divine worship will be set at nought, which hath *no support in God's Word*.

GOD sent the Gospel of his Son into the World, not to enrich the Clergy, but to convert Souls; and to reform the World, which is the visible Design of that *Godlike Institution*. But

Sixthly,

Sixthly, WHAT was likely to be the farther Consequence of Paul's preaching the sincere and uncorrupted Gospel?

Ans. *The Temple of the great Goddess DIANA wou'd be despised, and her Magnificence destroy'd, whom all the World worshipped.* ver. 27.

WHEN Church-mens sinful Gains are in Danger, they cry, *The Church is in Danger!* And Gain being their only Godliness, the Chief Idol they Worship, it is very true, that *their* Church and Religion are in Danger enough, if the Gospel be but honestly preach'd.

BUT is it not a wicked Craft, to bring down God and Heaven to espouse the Cause of Unrighteousness and Deceit? Yet furious Priests will press Heaven and Earth in defence of their Forgeries and Superstitions; nor part with a Tittle, a Shrine, or a Ceremony, to save a Soul.

THERE

THERE was certainly something divine in *Paul* and his Doctrine, which put the whole Tribe of Pagan Priests into such a Fright.

THE Temple of the Lady at *Loretto*, and all other Popish *Toy-shops* wou'd soon be despised, and the Magnificence of the Prelates humbled, if the Gospel and Truth had but *fair Play*.

Let us now enquire

Seventhly, WHAT *Effect* this Craftsman's Sermon had upon the *Auditory*?

They were full of Wrath. ver. 28.

THE holy Tribe were stark-mad to hear that their Trade and their Idol were both in Danger.

HOT Sermons have usually violent Effects upon a blind and bigotted Assembly; while wise and calm Hearers see the Absurdities and Weakness of the Discourse; and despise the *Passion*, and perhaps the *Villany* of the Preacher.

BUT

BUT when the Blind lead the Blind,
the wilfully blind lead the *unfortunately*
Blind; the issue will be endless Blindness.

WHAT is the Cry?

Great is DIANA of the Ephesians!

In *Jewish* Language, *The Temple, the Temple, the Temple!*

In *Popish* Language, *The Virgin, the Virgin, the Virgin!*

In *High-Ch-----b* Language, *The Kirk, the Kirk, the Kirk;-----the Church, the Church, the Church!*

As the Author referr'd to observes,
Such is the Power of Delusion and false
Zeal, that let but a ~~priest~~ point at a Wind-
Mill, and Cry, *The Church is falling;*
and his Congregation will venture their
Brains to stop the Sails.

WHAT a pity Souls shou'd be thus
cheated!

The whole City was in an Uproar, v.

WHAT Mischief is one fiery *Priest*,
one passionate *Sermon* able to do!

THIS is not the way of Christ and
Christian Preachers; when Men con-
tend for *God* and *Truth*, they do it *calmly*,
as knowing a good Cause will support it
self: But Error, Conscious of its own
Weakness, flies for support to Rage, Vio-
lence and Confusion.

They rush into the Theatre.

How oft do Noise and Clamour run
down sacred Truth, which loves calmness
and order. For two Hours nothing is
heard, but, *Great is DIANA of the Ephe-
sians.* ver 34. *Paul*, and his Protestant
dissenting Brethren cou'd not get in a
Word amongst them.

BE a Cause ever so good, *Rage* and
and *Fury*, are ill Methods to support it;
the Wrath of Man never promoteth the
Righteousness of God.

WRATH, Clamour, Bitterness are of
a quite differing Nature from Reasoning
and Gospel Persuasion. These Passions
only

only serve the Cause of the Enemy who raiseth them.

Eightly, and Lastly, How is this Ecclesiastical Mob *dispersed*, and this Tumult *appeas'd*, which these Church Toy-makers had raised?

Ans. IT is done by the Prudence and Moderation of a sensible LAY-MAN, the Town-Clerk, or Register of the Games, who talks to better Purpose than the whole Convocation of Priests. ver. 35.

HE telleth them, this worship was *established by Law*, and had a *Majority* on its side. ver. 35, 36. And then had it been a *Moloch*, or a *May-pole*, it wou'd have had the knavish Priests on its side, and must have been worshipped. And if the Priests *say* it, the blind People will fall down, tho' it be to a Wooden-Cross, or a decay'd Stone on the Highway; a worm-eaten Image, or a mouldy Wafer.

TO humour the People, he owns it to be *the Image that fell down from Jupiter*. So the *Romish* Priests say, the Chappel of the Virgin at *Loretto* was carried by Angels from the Holy-Land into *Italy*.

ALL the Lumber of the Popish Priests came from GOD; yet they are scar'd out of their Wits, if MEN offer to take it from them; as if God cou'd not defend his own Gifts.

HE tells them *Paul* had not robb'd their Temples, or blasphem'd their Godde's. *ver. 37*. For knavish Tricks and foul Language, only hurt the cause of God and Truth.

URGING the Conscience with Argument, and moving the Heart by Persuasion are the weapons of Christ's Workmen.

HE tells *Demetrius* and the Priests, " That the *Court of Common-Pleas* was open, if they had any Charge against *Paul*."

Paul." ver. 38. but the Misfortune is, the Cause of Image-worship, and Church-fopperies will not bear a fair Trial.

To Conclude,

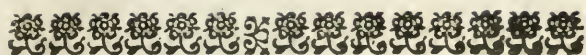
WHEN Men, in any Cause, avoid calm and fair Reasoning, when they grow Angry in defence of their Opinions, and treat with ill-words and ill-manners those who oppose them; Let them not lie for *God*, Christ and Religion, and say, *It was for him*; But let the Zealots answer for that Pride, Revenge, Railing, Cruelty, which their own Passion has produc'd.

AND let us all join in *admiring Praise* to that God who hath so oft delivered us from the hellish Fury of the *Romish* Priests,

Priests, Men as void of Truth, as they are of Charity; Let us acknowledge his Goodness, who yet delivereth, and live in hope that he will still deliver us,

F I N I S.





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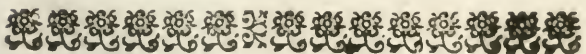
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